



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

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SURFACE WATER  
QUALITY BUREAU

Marcy Leavitt, Chief  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
State of New Mexico Environment Department  
P. O. Box 26110  
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

Re: Request for EPA review and approval on the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (Part I)*

Dear Ms. Leavitt:

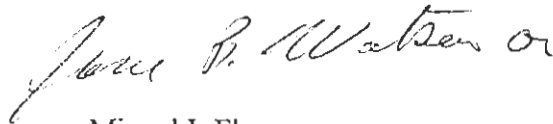
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the thirteen (13) TMDLs transmitted by your letter to Miguel Flores dated November 15, 2004. By this letter, EPA is approving the loadings as established in the documents grouped together as the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (Part I)*, to include:

- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Comanche Creek (Costilla Creek to Little Costilla Creek)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Costilla Creek (Diversion above Costilla to Comanche Creek)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Rio de los Pinos (Colorado Border to headwaters)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature and Specific Conductance in Rio Fernando de Taos (Rio Pueblo de Taos to headwaters)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Rio Grande (Red River to New Mexico-Colorado border)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.122 NMAC.
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Specific Conductance in Rio Grande del Rancho (Rio Pueblo de Taos to Highway 518)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Rio Hondo (Rio Grande to U.S. Forest Service Boundary)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Rio Pueblo de Taos (Rio Grande to Arroyo del Alamo)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature and Stream Bottom Deposits in Rio Pueblo de Taos (Arroyo del Alamo to Rio Grande del Rancho)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.122
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Rio Pueblo de Taos (Rio Grande del Rancho to Taos Pueblo boundary)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Rio San Antonio (Montoya Canyon to headwaters)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123 NMAC

Based on this review, EPA concludes that the TMDLs listed above meet the requirements found in Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7. EPA is therefore pleased to approve the TMDL loadings contained in these documents and their incorporation as updates to the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan. Please note that while included in the NMED submittal, an implementation plan is not required by current regulations and this approval does not address the existence or the adequacy of any implementation plans contained within these submissions.

Please find enclosed, Final Review reports on the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (Part I)*. We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me or Catherine Penland of my staff at (214) 665-7122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Miguel I. Flores".

Miguel I. Flores  
Director  
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures